

SENATE—Tuesday, January 25, 2000

The Senate met at 11:31 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LARRY E. CRAIG, a Senator from the State of Idaho.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, the same yesterday, today, and forever, we thank You for the consistency of Your care on blustery, snowy days or on bright, shiny, blue sky days. Today, as the Capitol is blanketed with snow and the work of the Senate is delayed, we ask You to bless the Senators and their staffs. Use this day to further prepare them for the crucial work ahead for the Senate. Protect those who have ventured forth on icy roads and refresh with rest those who are snowbound in their homes. As You give the day, You show the way, and whatever the weather, You come to us when we pray. You are our Lord and Savior. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CONRAD BURNS, a Senator from the State of Montana, led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF THE ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 25, 2000.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LARRY E. CRAIG, a Senator from the State of Idaho, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CRAIG thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

CLOSING OF THE SENATE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I must say, once again, welcome to my colleagues

and the Chaplain and a hardy band of brothers and sisters who serve as our staff. It is very tough today to be in the Nation's Capital with, I guess, 8 or 10 inches of snow on the ground and more on the way.

I note, of course, to the Senator from Montana, it is nothing unusual for him; he is used to this kind of snow, I guess.

To our Chaplain, I say thank you for being here this morning with your beautiful prayer, as always.

On our leadership team, I thank Senator NICKLES, Senator MACK, Senator CRAIG, and Senator MCCONNELL for being here today. We have already had a leadership meeting. I thank Senator REID for being here on behalf of the Democrats.

I had several conversations early this morning with officials, the police, and also with Senator DASCHLE, about how to deal with the weather. It is a massive snow and certainly there is a great deal of danger in the amount that has come down. With the difficulty in the ability to move around and with a lot of our staff and Senators living out in Virginia and Maryland, it made sense to join the rest of the Federal Government and be closed today. However, due to the Senate rules, we have to be here for a few minutes so that we can adjourn to reconvene tomorrow. We had already entered the order that we would be here today at the assigned hour of 11:30 a.m., and so we had to be here. But we will go on with business that we must do today, and then everyone will be able to go home safely before it gets even worse this afternoon.

MEASURES PLACED ON CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the second reading of House Joint Resolution 84 and Senate bill 1999 be deemed to have occurred and that objection be heard to the further consideration of these measures at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The bill and joint resolution will be placed on the Calendar under the rule.

ORDER FOR RECESS TOMORROW

Mr. LOTT. I also ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess on Wednesday from the hours of 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. so that the weekly party conferences can meet.

Those conferences would have occurred, I believe, today—I know in our case; I think with the Democrats, too.

But in view of the weather, we will reschedule them for tomorrow, and thus the necessity of this recess.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could through you to the majority leader indicate that certainly the right decision was made today. I think we have become kind of spoiled back here in Washington; we have had such mild winters. If we reflect back on the days of our service in the House, which was not too long ago, I say to the majority leader, it seems to me we used to have bad weather and we had to make preparations for snow days. I remember the Reagan inaugurations; those were bitter cold events about this time of year. So the right decision was made. I look forward to working with the leader and the majority in moving legislation along. We have made great progress on the bankruptcy bill, and I look forward to completing that in the near future.

Mr. LOTT. Let me say to the Senator, being from the Mississippi gulf coast, I am not quite sure I know how to appreciate all this white stuff since we do not have it, but I think we made the right decision, a safe decision, for our colleagues and for our staffs.

I thank the Senator for the work he has done on the bankruptcy bill. Without the work of the Senator last year, we would not be in the position of being able to finish the pending amendments and, hopefully, the entire bill by tomorrow. I know the Senator is still working on it. We did vitiate the cloture vote yesterday so that that will not occur, and we did lock in an agreement as to how to go forward, what amendments would be considered and voted on, to complete its consideration. I know the Senator has indicated he thinks we can do that. So has Senator DASCHLE. And we will work with the Senators to try to make that occur.

I thank the Senator for his effort. I hope he will continue to do that.

1999 YEAR END REPORT

The mailing and filing date of the 1999 Year End Report required by the Federal Election Campaign Act, as amended, is Monday, January 31, 2000. Principal campaign committees supporting Senate candidates file their reports with the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510-7116.

The Public Records office will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For

further information, please contact the Public Records office at (202) 224-0322.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 26, 2000

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 26. I further ask consent that on Wednesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume debate on S. 625, the bankruptcy reform bill, as under the previous agreement.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the bankruptcy reform legislation at 11 a.m. tomorrow. We did move the starting time from 9:30 to 11 a.m. to allow time for our staffs to be here and have time to prepare for the session, but we will go right into the business of consideration of the amendments that have been agreed to. Under the previous consent, time agreements have been made on most of the remaining amendments, and therefore it is hoped that a final

vote would occur on Wednesday on the bankruptcy bill. That could occur late in the afternoon or even in the early evening, but I think it is important that we try to finish that legislation on Wednesday.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. LOTT. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 11:38 a.m., adjourned until Wednesday, January 26, 2000, at 11 a.m.